



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/092,984	03/07/2002	Bruce J. Serbin	DP-301646	1472

7590 04/02/2004

Francis J. Fodale
Reising, Ethington, Barnes, Kisselle,
Learman & McCulloch, P.C.
P.O. Box 4390
Troy, MI 48099

EXAMINER

LEON, EDWIN A

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
----------	--------------

2833

DATE MAILED: 04/02/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary**Application No.**

10/092,984

Applicant(s)

SERBIN ET AL.

Examiner

Edwin A. León

Art Unit

2833

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 18 February 2004 and 01 March 2004.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 2-4, 6-13, 15 and 18-20 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☒ Claim(s) 3,4 and 6-13 is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 2,15,18 and 19 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 20 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Amendment

1. Applicant's amendment and Request for Continued Examination filed February 18, 2004 and March 1, 2004 in which Claims 2, 15 and 18 have been amended and Claims 1, 5, 14 and 16-17 have been cancelled, have been placed of record in the file.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

2. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

3. Claims 2, 15 and 18 rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Turner (U.S. Patent No. 3,182,282). With regard to Claims 15 and 18, Turner discloses an electrical connection comprising: an elongated solid conductor (4) having a longitudinally extending groove (Fig. 5, groove in which 7 enters, Fig. 8, groove in which 21a-d enter); and a terminal (17) having a base portion (19), a first wing (21-a-d) and a second wing (21-a-d), the base portion (19) engaging the solid conductor (4), the first and second wings (21-a-d) projecting laterally outward and in opposite directions from the base portion (19), the first wing (21-a-d) and the second wing (21-a-d) curling about

Art Unit: 2833

the solid conductor (4) and projecting into the groove (Fig. 5, groove in which 7 enters, Fig. 8, groove in which 21a-d enter), the first wing (21-a-d) and the second wing (21-a-d) engaging each other within the groove (Fig. 5, groove in which 7 enters, Fig. 8, groove in which 21a-d enter) to resist spring-back of the first and second wings, the terminal (17) having a portion (Fig. 7) at the opposite end for mating with another conductor (3), the elongated solid conductor (4) being of one piece construction and the first wing (21-a-d) and the second wing (21-a-d) curling solely about the elongated solid conductor (4) of one piece construction. The method limitations are deemed inherent and are rejected as shown above. See Figs. 1-9.

With regard to Claim 2, Turner discloses an outer surface of the terminal (17) carried by the base portion (19), the first wing (21-a-d) and the second wing (21-a-d); and the outer surface having a first distal edge portion (25a-d) carried by the first wing (21-a-d) and disposed within the groove (Fig. 5, groove in which 7 enters, Fig. 8, groove in which 21a-d enter) and a second distal edge portion (25a-d) carried by the second wing (21-a-d) and disposed within the groove (Fig. 5, groove in which 7 enters, Fig. 8, groove in which 21a-d enter), the first and second distal edge portions (25a-d) being engaged to prevent spring-back of the first and second wings (21-a-d) out of the groove (Fig. 5, groove in which 7 enters, Fig. 8, groove in which 21a-d enter). See Figs. 1-9.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

4. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

5. Claim 19 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Turner (U.S. Patent No. 3,182,282). Turner discloses the claimed invention as shown above except for the portion in the conductor having a V-shaped cross section.

However, it would have been obvious to have the portion in the conductor having a V-shaped cross section instead of the U-shape shown in Fig. 8 since applicants have presented no explanation that these particular configurations of the V-shape is significant or is anything more than one of numerous configurations a person of ordinary skill in the art would find obvious for the purpose of receiving forming a groove to receive the curled wings. A change in shape is generally recognizing as being within the level of ordinary skill in the art. In re Dailey, 149 USPQ 47 (CCPA 1976).

Allowable Subject Matter

6. Claims 3-4 and 6-13 are allowed for the reasons stated in the Office Action of August 15, 2003.

7. Claim 20 is objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

The references fail to teach, disclose, or suggest, either alone or in combination, the portion having a first rail and a second rail and the first wing and the second wing curl about the first and the second rail respectively and in combination with the rest of the limitations of the base and intermediate claims.

Response to Arguments

8. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 2, 15 and 18-20 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Conclusion

9. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Edwin A. León whose telephone number is (571) 272-2008. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Friday 10:00-6:30.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Paula A. Bradley can be reached on 571-272-2800, extension 33. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

W/4n 4.25

Edwin A. Leon
AU 2833

EAL
March 30, 2004